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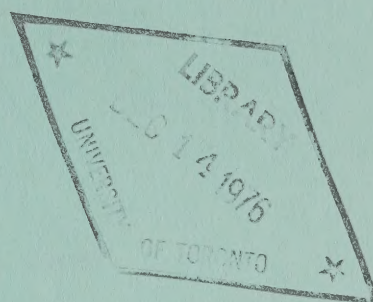
Government
Publications

ONTARIO COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

OPEN MEETING WITH THE LAW SOCIETY OF
UPPER CANADA - BAR ADMISSION COURSE

DECEMBER 20, 1974

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ONTARIO COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

MINUTES

4-0170 MEETING

OPEN MEETING WITH THE LAW SOCIETY OF UPPER CANADA - BAR ADMISSION COURSE

LOCATION

Queen's Park, Toronto

DATE AND TIME

December 20, 1974
11:30 a.m.

4-0171 ATTENDANCE

OCUA MEMBERS

J. S. Dupré

W. E. Bagnall

J. J. Deutsch

A. D'Iorio

P. D. Fleck

J. D. Fisher

R. Gerstein

T. Giesbrecht

L. Good

W. A. Goyan

D. G. Hill

T. R. Léger

A. L. McCallion

J. F. Mustard

R. P. Riggin

Ronald S. Ritchie

H. H. Walker

OCUA STAFF

J. P. Venton
Executive Secretary

N. E. Simmons
Associate Secretary

MCU (Observer)

B. A. Wilson
Assistant Deputy Minister

COU (Observer)

B. L. Hansen
Research Director

LAW SOCIETY DELEGATION

J. C. MacDonald
Director

S. Thom
Treasurer

B. J. MacKinnen
Chairman of Legal Education

D. V. Burnett
Financial Administrator

E. R. Knox
Assistant Director

W. G. Gray
Chairman of Finance

K. Jarvis
Secretary

4-0172

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The Director of the Bar Admission Course circulated and read excerpts from the Law Society's brief. Subsequent discussion focused on the following:

4-0173

ENROLMENT

It was noted that the Bar Admission Course had little control over either the number or the calibre of students entering university programmes and graduating with an LL.B. Indeed, it was stressed that the Bar Admission Course was expected to be able to accommodate the accumulation of all law school enrolment increases.

It was reported that of the 828 current enrolees in the Bar Admission Course one was a Native student, ninety-nine were women (an increase of 49 over the previous year), and ten to twelve were foreign students.

4-0174

OPERATING FINANCES

The delegation explained that its requirement for additional funds in 1975-76 hinged on increased costs occasioned by enrolment growth, inflation, and the anticipated decentralization of the programme.

i) Decentralization

Although the Law Society had informed the Committee on University Affairs of the possibility of decentralization, MCU approval of a satellite in another geographic location had not been received. The Law Society anticipated that additional costs

related to decentralization would include rental of premises and additional administrative staff. It was felt that the only alternative to regionalization, in the face of exceptional enrolment growth, was to enlarge Osgoode Hall. The Law Society agreed to forward to Council a study comparing the costs of Osgoode Hall expansion and those of regionalization which demonstrated that the latter would be less expensive. The delegation also noted that articling took place throughout the Province and that decentralization of the course proper would parallel this practice.

Council indicated that in its role of adjudicator, it would attempt to take account of enrolment growth and inflation in recommending a grant for the Law Society, but expected to encounter difficulties in recommending funding for new initiatives (such as decentralization) which had not received formal Ministry approval.

ii) Student Fees and OSAP

The Law Society determined fees for the Bar Admission Course. At present students were required to pay \$100 when joining the Law Society as a student member and \$400 per term upon entrance to the academic portion of the Course. The \$400 fee included books, etc. Despite the Minister's announcement that tuition fees would not be increased in 1975-76, the Law Society had approved an increase in student fees to \$475 for the next term.

It was noted that during their articles, students were ineligible for OSAP support. Furthermore, earnings during the last eight months of articling reduced student entitlement for OSAP support by \$700-\$800.

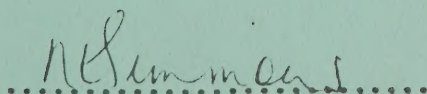
iii) Other Sources of Funding

All costs of the Bar Admission Course over and above the grant received from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities were borne by practising lawyers in Ontario as part of their fee to practise law. At present the fee was \$180 per year. As well, the 35 faculty involved in the teaching portion of the Bar Admission Course received only small honoraria, not full salaries. In the last teaching session it was reported that three or four out of the thirty-five teachers had been women. This proportion exceeded that of women practising Law in Ontario.

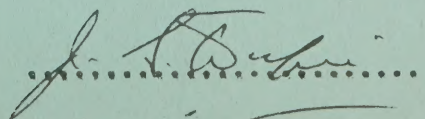
4-0175

ARTICLING

The delegation reported that for the foreseeable future there was little likelihood of changing the Law Society's current policy toward articling. It was felt strongly that office experience was important for future practitioners. This approach was reinforced by students, even at the Law school level, who wished more clinical exposure now offered beginning in the third undergraduate year. The Law Society and universities hoped to coordinate undergraduate practical experience, articling, and the Bar Admission Course to reconcile students who wished clinical experience sooner and members of the Law Society who felt that practising lawyers were the best clinical instructors.



N. E. Simmons
Associate Secretary



J. S. Dupré
Chairman

